

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

June 4, 2008

Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan

10:00 am — 3:00 pm

Minutes

Delegates Present: Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Michael Beach, Cindy Bush, Thomas Caldwell, Frederick Cromie, Julie Daggett-Lawrence, Tina Densmore, Judith Dorsch-Backes, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Doris Higgs, Robert Hove, Teri Johnson, Maggie Kolk, Kathleen Kosobud, Shari Krishnan, Tom Langdon, Diane Lanham, Sharon Melko, David Overly, Susan Peters, Richard Spring, Susan Steinbacher, Chuck Stockwell, Jan VanGasse, Michael Yocum

Alternates Present: Michelle Driscoll, Linda Keway, Jayanne Roggenbaum

MDE Staff Present: Karen Filliez, Meredith Hines, Ann Omans, Harvalee Saunto, Jacquelyn Thompson, Pat West

SEAC Consultant Present: Sandi Laham

Guests Present: Michael De Julian, Lori Irish, Valerie Lange, Scot Morrison, Kelly Orginski, Debs Roush, Beth Steenwyk, Debbie Todd, Colette Ward

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order.
- II. Roll Call
Roll Call was taken.
- III. Introduction of Guests
Guests were introduced.
- IV. Approval of Proposed June Agenda
 - The agenda was approved with two changes: Bob Hove made the motions:
 - 1) to delete Ad Hoc Reports
 - 2) to add Member Comments on Emerging Issues.
 - Motion seconded by Julie Daggett-Lawrence.
 - Motion Carried.

- V. Approval of May 7, 2008 Minutes
The May 7, 2008 Minutes were approved.
- VI. Public Comment
- Shari Krishnan commented about personal curriculum as one way of bringing humanity into special education (human rights and civil rights issues for people with disabilities).
- VII. Chairperson's Report was saved for the conclusion of the meeting. The meeting today is for closure of the SEAC year and obtaining feedback from SEAC members.
- VIII. SEAC Learning: Michigan Integrated Improvement Initiative (MI3)
- Presented by State Projects' Director, Ms. Beth Steenwyk
 - Design framework for the 13 state initiatives
 - Goal: to leverage and align external resources with internal accountability of the state agency and create a coalition which supports MDE/OSE-EIS improvement goals
 - Comprehensive and integrated support system of improvement through:
 - Intervention and implementation of evidenced based practices with fidelity
 - Equity building and accountability
 - Alignment: common purposes
 - Networking and collaboration
 - Ms. Steenwyk's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes.
- IX. State Department Reports – Dr. Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS)
- Michigan was selected to be one of the six State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices (SISEP) states.
 - June 10 State Board Meeting – ESY Standards will be discussed. The document was revised based on public comment and SEAC input to the original draft. Tom Langdon and Bob Hove will co-present the document. The document will be placed on the website subsequent to the State Board meeting.
- X. EMERGING ISSUES – Loss of State Aid: Julie Daggett-Lawrence
- Grand Ledge School District faces a loss of State aid because Pupil Accounting has disallowed programs involving peer-to-peer models such as our START (State Autism Research and Training) Links model.
 - Other districts in the START program may also be affected.
 - All programs involving student mentors may be affected.

- Member discussion
 - Three issues: 1) Grand Ledge, 2) other schools in the START program, 3) other types of non-classroom programs for students with disabilities that may be at risk.
- SEAC recommendation: draft a letter from SEAC to Superintendent Flanagan and the State Board of Education concerning this issue.

XI. State Complaints and Due Process Hearings Reports, Harvatee Saunto

- Handouts attached:
 - Due Process Hearings – Decisions: 07/01/07 – 06/03/08
 - State Complaints and Due Process Complaints: 07/01/07 – 06/03/08
- SEAC members asked for context of the statistical reports
- Hearings Notebook available for SEAC members to review.

XII. Information Item on Personal Curriculum – Michael Yocum, Shari Krishnan, Richard Spring, Chuck Stockwell, Jan VanGasse

- Drafting advice to the “Personal Curriculum Guidelines”
 - “What” are students expected to know and be able to do?
 - “How” are we going to get them there?
- Target completion date: September, 2008

XIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports were deleted from the agenda.

XIV. Action Items

A. Recommendation to amend SEAC By-laws

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the recommendations from the SEAC By-laws and Procedures Committee as follows:

(Note: ~~Strike through~~ indicates the word will be deleted, and **bold** indicates language which will be added.)

“The By-laws, Roles and Functions of the Special Education Advisory Committee Proposed Changes May 7, 2008:

III. Committees and Representation

B. Standing Committees

1. The SEAC ~~shall~~**may** have three standing committees in support of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) mandated functions.
2. The Chairperson of the SEAC shall appoint members to committees and designate a member of the Executive Committee to chair each committee. A co-chair for each committee shall be selected from among the SEAC membership serving on the committee.
3. The duties of the standing committees will be determined on a year to year basis by the SEAC.
4. **The Executive Committee may determine on a year to year basis that due to the nature of the issues that need to be addressed by the SEAC, standing committees will not be formed, and the issues will instead be addressed by forming ad hoc committees as needed.**

IV. Meetings

A. Quorum

1. A majority of SEAC membership shall constitute a quorum. **Members who attend the meeting at a remote location through audiovisual means shall be counted as part of the quorum. "**

(Bob Hove made the motion, Richard Spring seconded to approve the recommendation. Motion was approved.)

B. E-Meeting/Technology Recommendation

Motion: To adopt the recommendations from the SEAC Ad-Hoc E-Meeting/Technology Committee to conduct two pilot E-Meetings during 2008-09 at three sites (one in Lansing, two remote) as a means to test alternative meeting strategies and gather information on the viability and effectiveness of these alternatives while maintaining essential elements of the current SEAC meetings.

Recommendation:

- 1) SEAC commit to conducting two E-Meetings during the 2008-09 school year.
- 2) E-Meetings to be scheduled in January and March **or** February and April.

- 3) One regular monthly meeting to be held between each meeting in order to review the experience and determine any recommendations for the subsequent meeting.
- 4) The main SEAC meetings for these two months take place at a location at which an E-Meeting is available. (Possible locations - the MELG Building or Clinton County RESA.)
- 5) MDE be responsible for determining the location for the two E-Meetings.
- 6) Two local remote sites be connected for each E-Meeting.
- 7) One remote location be the Upper Peninsula. (Possible locations: Dickinson-Iron ISD, Delta-Schoolcraft ISD, Menominee ISD, or Marquette-Alger RESA)
- 8) A second remote site in the Lower Peninsula be connected. (Possible locations - Traverse Bay Area ISD, Macomb ISD, or Mecosta-Osceola ISD)

In testing SEAC E-Meetings, we recommend the following as criteria and/or requirements for those meetings. The meetings should:

- 1) Provide opportunities for collegiality.
- 2) Provide opportunity to talk to MDE staff informally.
- 3) Provide opportunity for public comment.
- 4) Accommodations made so all can participate (e.g., addressing needs of members who have hearing or vision considerations, etc.).
- 5) Recognition and identification of who's who (delegates, alternates, guests).
- 6) The ability to give, receive, and discuss information.
- 7) Phone call opportunities for a subset of members at the "satellite sites".
- 8) Sites must have phone/internet links.
- 9) Materials made available and printed in advance.
- 10) Access to information in real time.
- 11) Capacity to quick copy and/or distribute electronically to E-Meeting sites.
- 12) Hosts at each site to handle technical issues, including microphone access.
- 13) Facilitators at each site to handle logistics, including lunch, sign-in, public comment.

Motion to be made: To adopt the recommendation to pilot two SEAC E-Meetings during the 2008-09 school year.

Action to be taken: To forward this recommendation to the OSE-EIS and request that they proceed in making the arrangements for the two E-Meetings on designated dates as specified in the motion.

Motion made by Jan Van Gasse and seconded by Bob Hove. Motion was approved.

XV. Reports from Ex-Officio Members – None.

XVI. Member Announcements

- Michigan Integrated Technology Supports Conference - Traverse City, June 17-20. Universal Design in Learning presentations. Price. \$450.00. Register online through CEN.
- *Focus on Results* article by former SEAC member, Chuck Saur, <http://www.cenmi.org>.
- Wayne SMI/SXI class size changes were rejected by the Parent Advisory Committee.
- Pending legislation impacting public school academies: students who cross ISD lines -- resident district is considered the home district. Pending legislation would not allow, unless both ISDs agree on student funding. A student's choice is stopped by their status as a student with a disability. SEAC may want to address.
 - When a School of Choice student has not been identified, but becomes identified, does the same rule apply? YES. They would go back to the previous district.
 - Strict discipline academies are governed by a similar law. IEP calls for child to stay there, then the state won't let the money follow. SEAC will need to better understand this issue and how it aligns with Section 105© in the State Aid Act.

XVII. Evaluation

a. SEAC Process

- Stay with the agenda.
- Mentors are very helpful.
- Get support from employer. Acknowledgement from SEAC for member's time.
- PowerPoint handouts at the time of the presentations for visual learners.
- Rotation schedule for membership needs to be accurate.
- Letter to the employers.
- Screen, mikes, good
- Reactive body – SEAC, need to address more emerging issues
- Like the room set-up.
- Like homework assignments.
- No standing committees – think that everyone should be on ad hoc, relationship building opportunity
- Don't know how you could prepare people any better than you did

b. SEAC Member Notebook

- Group picture
- Bigger Binders
- Suggest abstract for large documents in resource book

XVIII. Closure and Thank You

- Beverly gave cards to Exec and MDE staff
- Jan VanGasse presented Beverly with a gift
- SEAC "chefs" were presented with SEAC aprons.

XIX. Recognition of Outgoing SEAC Members

- Certificates were presented to outgoing SEAC members.

XX. Future Agenda Considerations

- SEAC Fall Retreat

September 14, Soaring Eagle Inn, Mt. Pleasant

September 15, Winding Brook Conference Center, Shepherd

XXI. Adjournment